

TALES FROM THE

TOMB

pdc

FEATURING:

GHOULS GRAVEYARD

•

THE SWAMP MONSTERS

PLUS OTHER
TALES OF HORROR
FROM THE TOMB

APRIL 1970 50¢



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TALES FROM THE TOMB

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CARL BURGOS, Editor

IRVING FASS, Art Director

EZRA JACKSON, Art Editor

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HELLO, FOLKS... LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF... I'M THE **NAMELESS ONE!** HEH! HEH! THAT'S THE ONLY MONIKER I HAVE! DRAW UP YOUR CHAIRS WHILE I TELL YOU A CHARMING LITTLE STORY! YOU ALL LOVE SOFT, CLUSHY LIVING, BUT THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS WHAT THEY SEEM! JUST WHEN YOU THINK YOU HAVE THINGS GOING THE WAY YOU WANT, YOU MAY BE IN FOR A SURPRISE... BEWARE, FRIENDS, OF THE...

SWAMP MONSTERS



ONE ROBBER MANAGED TO REACH THE GETAWAY CAR, BUT AS HE HANDED IN THE SATCHEL OF STOLEN MONEY, A COP'S SLUG ENDED HIS EARTHLY CAREER...



RILEY, THE DRIVER OF THE CAR, WAITED NO LONGER! HE SPED OFF...



RILEY MIRACULOUSLY GOT AWAY AND REACHED THE HIDEOUT OF A TOUGH UNDERWORLD CHARACTER KNOWN AS "GASHOUSE MAME"...

I'M THE ONLY ONE THAT GOT AWAY WITH SIXTY GRAND IN THIS SACHEL! NOW I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THE COUNTRY!

I CAN HANDLE IT FOR YOU FOR THIRTY GRAND!

HEY! THAT'S HALF OF ALL I GOT!

MAME DOESN'T OPERATE FOR PEANUTS! TAKE IT, OR LEAVE IT!

ALL RIGHT, YOU ROBBER! YOU WIN!

MY FRIEND "THE DUCHESS" WILL GET YOU AWAY TO SOUTH AMERICA! ONCE SHE TAKES CHARGE THE F.B.I. WILL NEVER PICK UP YOUR TRAIL!

SO, ABOUT TWO WEEKS LATER-- AFTER BEING SECRETLY SHUNTED FROM HIDEOUT, WE FIND RILEY BUMPING ALONG A SWAMPY ROAD SOMEWHERE DEEP IN THE LONELY, SILENT FLORIDA EVERGLADES...

THIS AREA SURE IS CREEPY! THE JOINT I'M HEADED FOR CAN'T BE FAR AWAY!

THERE'S THE ONLY HOUSE I'VE SEEN IN TWENTY MILES! THAT MUST BE THE PLACE!

Three people emerged when the fugitive drew up before the ramshackle structure...

THIS SURE IS A HOLE! HOPE I DON'T HAVE TO STAY HERE LONG!

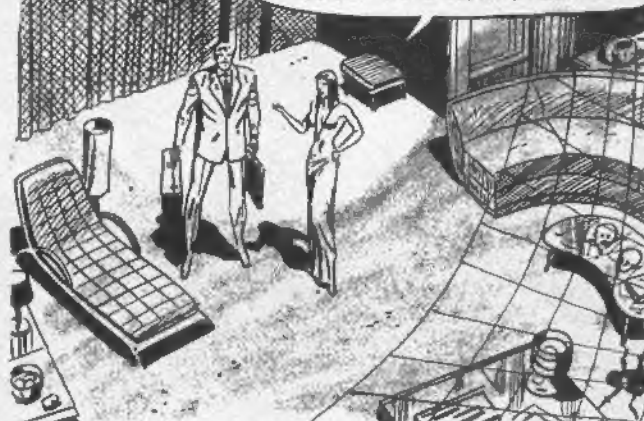
HELLO, MR. RILEY! WELCOME TO "HOOD'S HAVEN"! WE HAVE BEEN EAGERLY EXPECTING YOU! I'M YOUR HOSTESS--THE DUCHESS!

DON'T MAKE IT TOO LONG, DUCHESS! A THIRD-RATE FLOPHOUSE WOULD BE BETTER THAN THIS PUMP!



**SA-AY! THIS
LOOKS MORE
LIKE THE
WALDORF!**

YOU SEE, MR. RILEY... YOU
CAN'T TELL ANYTHING
FROM THE OUTSIDE! WE
HAVE ONLY THE FINEST OF
EVERYTHING HERE AND YOU
WILL LIVE LIKE A KING!



BOY! REAL HAVANA
MAGNIFICOS! JUST
THE KIND I LIKE!
THIS COCKTAIL
IS DELICIOUS!

THEN LET ME
OFFER A TOAST
TO A PLEASANT
STAY! WE ALWAYS
ENJOY OUR COMPANY!
WE HAD A VISITOR
UP TO A FEW
DAYS AGO!



THAT'S ALL
RIGHT! ALL
TRACE OF
THE CAR
MUST BE
DESTROYED!
BUT WE CAN
SELL THE
TIRES!



BOMBO THEN DROVE THE CAR INTO THE SWAMP...



THE CAR SETTLED FAST INTO THE MUDDY BOG, AND...

...IN A FEW MINUTES IT COMPLETELY DISAPPEARED!

LULU CAME IN TO ANNOUNCE...

DINNER IS SERVED!

THIS WAY TO THE DINING ROOM, MR. RILEY!

I'M GOOD AND HUNGRY, TOO!

RILEY CONTINUED TO MARVEL AT THE ELEGANCE WHICH SURROUNDED HIM...

BEAUJOLAIS 1929! THIS IS INDEED SOME CHAMPAGNE, DUCHESS! IT SURE BEATS ME HOW--

NOTHING BUT THE BEST! AS I TOLD YOU, WE WANT YOU TO ENJOY YOURSELF, BECAUSE WE EXPECT TO GAIN A GREAT DEAL FROM YOU!

THIS ROAST IS SO TENDER-- THE MEAT SO SWEET--

AH, OUR MEATS ARE OUR PRIDE, MR. RILEY! LULU TAKES SPECIAL CARE IN THAT DEPARTMENT!

AND SO THE DAYS PASSED...

I HOPE YOU'RE NOT BECOMING BORED, MR. RILEY!

NO--INDEED! NOT LIVING LIKE THIS IN THE LAP OF LUXURY!

IN FACT-- YOU ARE FATTENING ME UP! HA! HA!

OH, I'M SO GLAD... I ALWAYS DID LIKE A MAN WITH A BIT OF FAT ON HIM!

SHE'S GETTING TO LIKE ME! I COULD DO WORSE THAN STAY RIGHT HERE-- LIVE LIKE THE LORD OF THE MANOR!

LOOK, DUCHESS... YOU'RE A PRETTY SWELL BABE! HOW ABOUT FORGETTING ABOUT THE SOUTH AMERICA DEAL AND YOU AND ME TEAMING UP RIGHT HERE?

WHY, MR. RILEY, A PROPOSAL OF MARRIAGE? YOU'LL HAVE TO GIVE ME TIME TO THINK IT OVER!



Then... RILEY LOOKED OVER HIS SHOULDER...

HEY-
WHAT THE--



I JUST WANT TO ASK, DUCHESS, IF YOU WANT STEAKS OR CHOPS FOR DINNER?

WOW!! YOU HAD ME SCARED FOR A MINUTE!



WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR FRESH MEAT OUT IN A GODFORSAKEN PLACE LIKE THIS?



OH, WE HAVE THE MOST MODERN DEEP FREEZE!

ONCE IN A WHILE WHEN LEFT ALONE, RILEY PROWLED THE HOUSE...

WONDER WHAT'S IN THAT CLOSET?



WHEN HE OPENED THE CLOSET DOOR...

YII-I!
SKULLS!!



HA, HA MR. RILEY! I SEE YOU'VE DISCOVERED MY COLLECTION! MY HOBBY IS ANTHROPOLOGY... HOMO SAPIENS IN PARTICULAR!

HMM-SOME HOBBY!



AFTER THAT A SENSE OF FOREBODING
OVERTOOK RILEY...

THIS JOINT IS GETTING ON
MY NERVES... WISH I COULD
GET STARTED TO SOUTH
AMERICA!



THE DOUGH'S ALL HERE--
THIRTY GRAND! I COULD
HAVE A WHALE OF A
TIME WITH THIS IN
RIO!



I WANT TO HIT THE
ROAD, DUCHESS... WHEN
DO I GET STARTED?

BE PATIENT!
JUST A FEW
DAYS MORE!



THE SUMPTUOUS MEALS SLACKENED OFF AND RILEY
WAS HUNGRY! ONE AFTERNOON, HE HEADED FOR
THE KITCHEN...

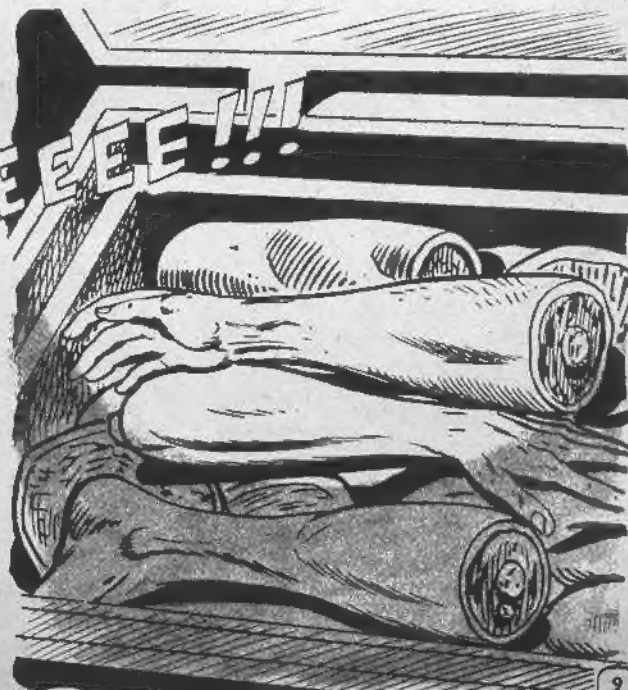
I COULD STAND
A BITE BEFORE
DINNER!



NOBODY AROUND...
THERE'S WHERE THEY
KEEP THE MEAT...
MAYBE I CAN FRY
MYSELF A CHOP!



BUT WHEN HE OPENED THE TOP OF
THE DEEP-FREEZE BOX...



IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
IT CAN'T BE TRUE THAT
I'VE BEEN EATING
HUMAN FLESH!
I FEEL SICK!



AN' I SUPPOSE THAT'S
THE REASON THEY'VE
BEEN FATTENING ME
UP LIKE A GOOSE!



...THEY MUST BE PLANNING
TO HAVE ME FOR A
MEAL OR TWO... BUT
THEY'RE WRONG!
NOBODY WILL HAVE
RILEY FOR DINNER!



...I RISKED TOO MUCH TO
GET THIS FAR... MY GANG
WAS WIPED OUT IN THAT
HEIST AND I WIND UP WITH
THE THIRTY GRAND IN A DEN
OF **CANNIBALS!**



GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
...BEFORE THOSE FLESH-
EATERS MISS ME...
30 GRAND... WITH THAT
I COULD LIVE THE LIFE
OF RILEY!



BOMBO! HE'S
HEADED FOR
THE SWAMP!
STOP HIM!
...USE YOUR ROPE
BEFORE HE'S
SWALLOWED UP
BY THE SWAMP!



...NEATLY ROPED, THE PANICKED MAN AND DRAGGED HIM BACK TO FIRM LAND...



SURELY YOU DONT THINK WE'D LET THAT UGLY OLD SWAMP EAT YOU UP DO YOU, MR. RILEY?

EAT--EAT?! UH--LEMMIE OUT OF HERE!



LEMMIE GO, DUCHESS! LEMME GO! I'LL GIVE YOU ALL THE DOUGH--THIRTY GRAND!

WHY MR. RILEY... DON'T BE NAIVE! I **ALREADY** HAVE ALL YOUR MONEY SAFELY TUCKED AWAY.



The LAST THAG RILEY SAW WAS BOMBO'S AID FACE, HIS LIPS DROOLING AND A H.S UPRAISED HAND, THE HEAVY, GLEAMING RAZOR-SHARP CLEAVER...



THAT EVENING THE DELIGHTFUL LITTLE GROUP SAT DOWN GRATEFULLY TO THEIR SIMPLE EVENING MEAL WITH EXCELLENT APPETITES...

AS I ALWAYS SAID, I LIKE A MAN WITH A BIT OF FAT ON HIM!



HEH! HEH! LET THAT BE A LESSON TO YOU, DEAR READERS! IF YOU'RE LEADING "THE LIFE OF RILEY" -- BEWARE AND DON'T SAY THE **NAMELESS ONE** DIDN'T WARN YOU!

HEH!
HEH!



THE
END!

THEIR BLIND EYES SOUGHT CHARLIE DEFFER BEHIND WALLS OF STONE!
THEIR BONY WH TE F.INGERS REACHED OUT TO ENSNARE HIM FOR THEIR...

GHOULS GRAVEYARD

THE DEAD
HAVE COME
FOR YOU
CHARLIE
DEFFER!

GET AWAY!
DON'T STARE AT
ME THROUGH THOSE
EMPTY EYE SOCKETS!
Y-YOU'LL NEVER GET
ME-- NEVER!

Keynote
69

The
GRAVESTONES
STOOD OUT
LIKE LEERING
YELLOW TEETH
IN THE LIGHT
OF THE LOW-
HANGING
MOON!
SCRAWNY,
ELFISH
CHARLIE DEFFER--
HIS SHIFTY
EYES DARTING--
ASCENDED
THE NARROW,
ROCK-STREWN
ROAD THAT
BORDERED
THE
CEMETERY!

THIS IS THE RACKET! NO MORE
GOING HUNGRY FOR ME--OR
SLEEPING ON HARD BENCHES!
THOSE CORPSES ALWAYS GOT
RINGS OR SOME STUFF
ON 'EM I CAN SELL!

HE MUTTERED ALOUD JUST TO HEAR A SOUND OVER
THE STILLNESS OF DEATH!

THERE! THAT'S THE
MOST IMPRESSIVE
GRAVE! LOTS OF DOUGH
WENT INTO ERECTING
THAT! I'LL KNOW.
SOON!

Then...CROUCHING HE BEGAN TO DIG FEVERISHLY. AN HOUR WENT BY. HE TREMBLED AND SWEATED PROFUSELY FROM THE EFFORT!



WITH TREMENDOUS FINGERS, HE PULLED BACK THE LO, AND HE SAW---



--I--I CAN'T GET THE RING OFF!
--NO! IT CAN'T BE! THE HAND'S BECOME A FIST...SO I CAN'T REMOVE THE R--



THE RUSH OF COLD HORROR BLOTTED OUT CONSCIOUSNESS FOR ONLY MINUTES... WHEN HE OPENED HIS EYES, HE LOOKED INTO THE WRINKLED, JAUNDICED FACE OF A MAN WITH A LANTERN!



I-I CAN'T GET UP! I-I'M TOO WEAK
TO RUN AWAY! IT'S BECAUSE I--I
HAVEN'T EATEN IN TWO DAYS!



I AM THE CARETAKER! I SAW
YOU WHILE I WAS DOING
MY ROUNDS!

Y-YOU'LL HAVE
ME ARRESTED--
THROWN IN
JAIL--NO!



NEVER MIND THAT NOW!
HERE--LET ME HELP
YOU!



INSTEAD OF SUM-
MONING THE POLICE,
THE ELDERLY MAN,
EMIL GLOSSIK, LED
HIM TO HIS
COTTAGE AND
MADE HIM SOME
HOT SOUP AND
TEA.. AND AS HE
WATCHED DEFFER
WOLFISHLY
CONSUMED IT...



ARE EARTHLY POSSESSIONS
SO IMPORTANT TO YOU THAT
YOU RESORT TO GHOULING,
SCROUNGING THE GRAVES
OF THE DEAD?



IT MEANS EVERYTHING! I WOULD
LIE--STEAL--CHEAT-- ANYTHING
TO BE RICH!

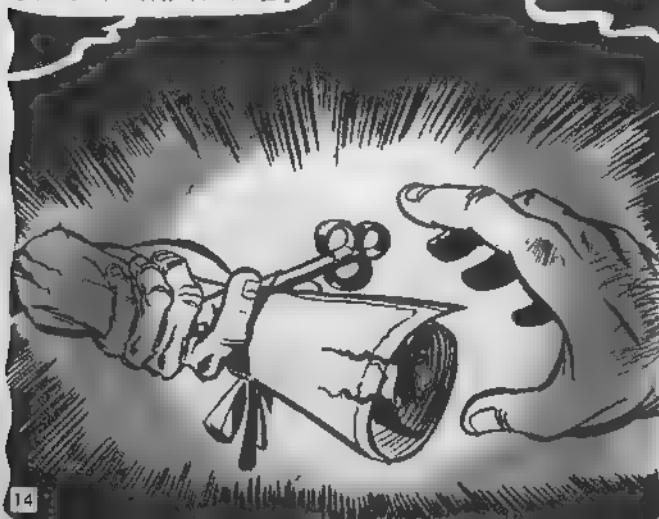


HERE--YOU MAY HAVE THIS!
IT IS A KEY TO A STRONGBOX
WITH CONSIDERABLE
MONEY IN IT AND A
DEED TO MY HOLSE!

I-I DON'T GET
IT! WHY DO YOU
GIVE THIS TO
ME?

ONLY
BECAUSE
IT IS
OF NO
USE TO
ME!

HE MUST BE
NUTS! OR
DOES HE HAVE
SOME OTHER
REASON FOR
GIVING ME
THIS STUFF?





NOW TAKE WHAT I'VE GIVEN YOU AND LEAVE RIGHT AWAY!

OH--I GET IT, NOW! THIS JUNK IS WORTHLESS! BUT YOU'VE GIVEN IT TO ME JUST TO GET RID OF ME! YOU'RE SCARED OF ME NOW!



BUT I'M NOT LEAVING! I'M STICKING AROUND HERE FOR THE NIGHT-- MAYBE EVEN FOR A FEW DAYS!

EMIL GLOSSIK SHRUGGED AS CHARLEY DEFFER PLUSHED HIS WAY INTO ONE OF THE ROOMS... HE STRETCHED OUT ON THE BED-- VERY PLEASED WITH HIMSELF...



THIS ISN'T A BAD SET-UP I'VE STUMBLED INTO! I NOTICED THERE'S NO TELEPHONE SO THE OLD GUY CAN'T CONTACT ANYBODY WITHOUT MY KNOWING!



VOICES! SOMEONE'S TALKING WITH THE OLD MAN!

THE LIGHT'S SO DIM! LOOKS LIKE A LOT OF STRANGELY CLOAKED FIGURES! I'LL SEE THEY MIND THEIR OWN BUSINESS!



HIS COURAGE BOLSTERED BY A JAGGED KITCHEN KNIFE, DEFFER THREW OPEN THE DOOR WITH A FLOURISH! THE CLOAKED FIGURES HEARD HIS STEP, GLIMPSED HIS FACE, THEN RAN FOR THE DOOR!



IF ANY OF YOU TRY TO TELL THE POLICE, I'LL-- HEY!

WHO WERE THEY? WHERE ARE THEY GOING? TELL ME, QUICK!

YOU ARE A FOOL! YOU ARE LOST! THEY SAW YOU!

THAT'S WHY I WANTED YOU TO LEAVE HERE! THEY ARE... THE DEAD!

THE DEAD? MAN-- YOU'VE BEEN HANGING AROUND THIS CEMETERY SO LONG, IT'S DRIVEN YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND!

SUDDENLY, HE HEARD THE GRINDING OF TEETH! HE GLANCED AT THE WINDOW... AND AT THE GHASTLY WHITE, WEIRD FACES STARING AT HIM!

EEEEEE! THEY ARE DEAD! WHAT GOES ON?

CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, CEMETERY CARETAKERS ARE CHOSEN BY THE DEAD THEMSELVES! I DID NOT APPLY FOR THE JOB! THIS IS THE WAY IT HAPPENED...

"A FRIEND OF MINE PASSED AWAY... AFTER HE WAS BURIED, I WOULD COME OFTEN TO HIS GRAVE! ONE RAINY EVENING..."

WE ARE A DELEGATION OF THE DEAD! WE HAVE ELECTED YOU TO BE OUR CARETAKER!

I HAVE NEVER LEFT SINCE! THERE IS NO ESCAPING THEM! WHEN I SHOP IN TOWN... THEY GO ALONG, WATCH ME! BUT IT'S NOT SO BAD... IT'S QUIET-- PEACEFUL!

THAT'S WHY I GAVE YOU THE KEY AND THE DEED! BUT NOW... YOU ARE DOOMED!

AT THAT INSTANT, THE DOOR OPENED, AND THE DEAD CAME STALKING IN TO STUDY QUIVERING CHARLEY!

AGGGGH!!



THEY WON'T
KEEP ME
HERE! THEY
WON'T



HE RAN AND RAN, TERROR QUICKENING HIS STEPS! THEY CHASED HIM, GARISH LAUGHTER FOLLOWING AFTER AS THOUGH THEY ENJOYED THE SPORT! AND WHEN HE MADE TOWN, HE DUCKED INTO A DINER FOR COFFEE -- FEELING SECURE IN THE COMPANY OF OTHERS!

THEN HE
NOTICED--

T-THEY'RE WATCHING
ME FROM THE WINDOW!



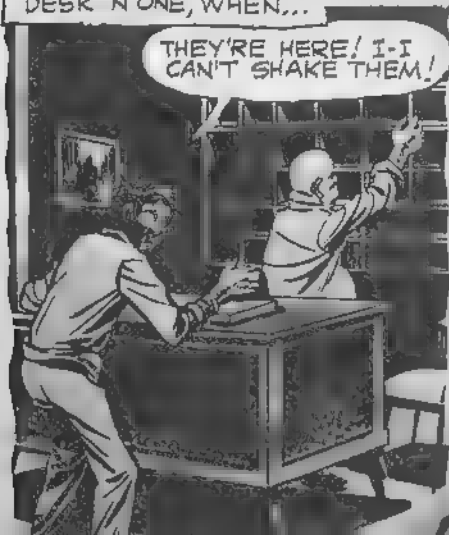
I-I'LL GO TO A HOTEL.
LOCK MYSELF IN A ROOM
WHERE THEY WON'T
FIND ME!

LOOK AT
HIM! HE GETS
HIGH ON
COFFEE!



HE FLED THROUGH SEVERAL HOTELS AND OUT THE BACK RE-TRACING HIS PATH TO CONFUSE HIS PURSUERS! AND THEN AT LAST, CERTAIN OF HIS EVASION, HE STARTED FOR THE REGISTRY DESK IN ONE, WHEN...

THEY'RE HERE! I-I
CAN'T SHAKE THEM!



THERE MUST BE SOMEPLACE I CAN
GO WHERE THEY CAN'T FOLLOW!
OH-- YES, I KNOW! IT'S A DESPERATE
MEASURE BUT I'VE GOT TO
DO IT! THAT COP!





BY THAT TIME I'LL BE FREE OF THEM! AND THEN-- I'LL GET THAT DEED AND KEY WHERE I STUCK THEM! AFTER THAT-- I'LL NEVER NEED WORRY AGAIN! IF THE OLD MAN WAS ON THE LEVEL!

DEFFER COUNTED THE MINUTES OF EACH DAY-- SUFFERING AN AGONY OF WAITING!--WAITING! HE SOUGHT EACH CORNER FOR THE GHASTLY DEAD SENTINELS, BUT THEY WERE NOWHERE TO BE SEEN! AT LAST HE WAS RELEASED! HE WENT TO THE DEEDED HOUSE AND UNCOVERED THE STRONGBOX!



--EM L GLOSSIK: YOU'RE ALONE AND YOU WANT TO MEET ME TO GIVE ME A KEY TO ANOTHER STRONGBOX? YES... YES... I'LL BE THERE!



HE'S ALONE. THAT MEANS HE'S ESCAPED, TOO! SO THE OLD GOAT'S STILL GIVING THINGS AWAY!



BUT CHARLEY DEFFER WAS WARY JUST THE SAME! AT THE APPOINTED TIME, HE WATCHED THE CAR FOR A LONG TIME BEFORE HE DETERMINED THAT GLOSSIK WAS ALONE!



-- GLOSSIK! I'M HERE! WHERE'S THE KEY?

COME IN, QUICKLY! WE'LL DRIVE AWAY FROM HERE TO BE CERTAIN WE HAVEN'T BEEN FOLLOWED!

HEY, WAIT! YOU'RE HEADED TOWARD THE CEMETERY!



STOP! **STOP!** W-WHY CAN'T I SQUEEZE YOUR THROAT WITH MY HANDS? **STOP!!**

IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD!



--AIEEEE! Y-YOU ARE A DEAD BEING NOW!

YES--I WAS AN OLD MAN! AND THE NEW CUSTODIAN OF THE DEAD WAS DESIGNATED TO BE--YOU!



-- AND SO IT WAS, THAT CHARLEY DEFFER FOUND HIS NICHE! HE WOULD RUMMAGE IN THE WORLD OF THE DEAD... A GHOUL TRAPPED BY HIS OWN AVARICE!



EERIE BONES

WHO KNEW WHAT TERROR LAY HIDDEN IN THE STEAMING GREEN HELL OF THE JUNGLE! RUMORS, WHISPERS OF FEARFUL THINGS, CAME OUT OF THE DREAD INTERIOR WHERE NO WHITE MAN HAD EVER TROD BEFORE! THEN INTO THE PRESENT, OUT OF THE CENTURIES, CAME THE HORRIBLE FORMLESS OF DEATH — THE BONES OF BALFUR ...



SOMEWHERE IN THE HEAT RIDDEN JUNGLES OF BURMA A PARTY OF SCIENTISTS ARE ON THE VERGE OF A GREAT DISCOVERY...

WELL, JOE, LOOKS LIKE WE'LL KNOW SOON NOW!

HOPE WE'RE RIGHT, PROFESSOR SMYTHE!

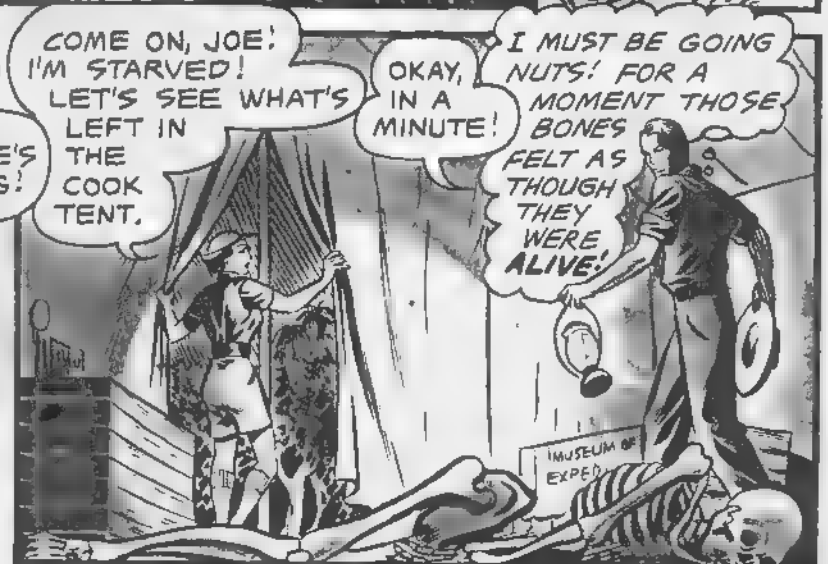
I'LL GET TO USE THIS CAMERA AT LAST!

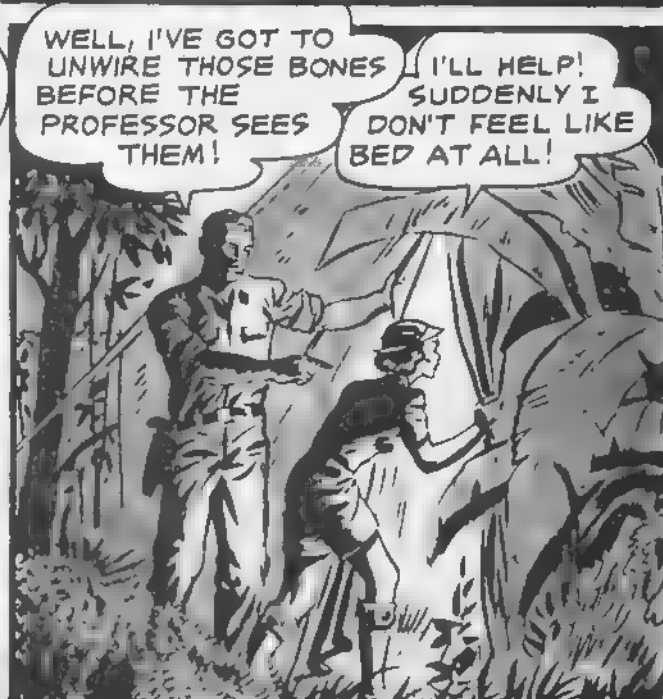
YES, KATY! IT WAS A RACE OF GIANTS WHO BUILT THE TEMPLES OF BALFUR HALF A MILLION YEARS AGO, YOU'LL HAVE THE SCOOP OF THE CENTURY! BUT SO FAR WE'VE FOUND ONLY FRAGMENTS!



A FEW
MINUTES
LATER...











ARRRRRGGGG-

AHHHH-
EEEE-
NO-



AYEEEE-
DEVIL THING
TAKE YOUNG
MISSY INTO
JUNGLE!



MINUTES LATER AS JOE
RECOVERS HIS SENSES...

QUICK, TUAN! YOU
HELP YOUNG MISSY!
DEVIL HAVE HER!

K-KATY!
THAT THING
TOOK HER?



COME ON! WE'LL FIND HER!
MOYA, GET ME THE ELEPHANT
GUN FROM THE
CHEST!

WE AFRAID,
TUAN!

ME NOT
GO INTO
JUNGLE!
TUAN MUST
GO ALONE!



ALL RIGHT, YOU
COWARDS! I'LL FIND
KATY ALONE!

YOU BE
KILLED SURE,
TUAN!



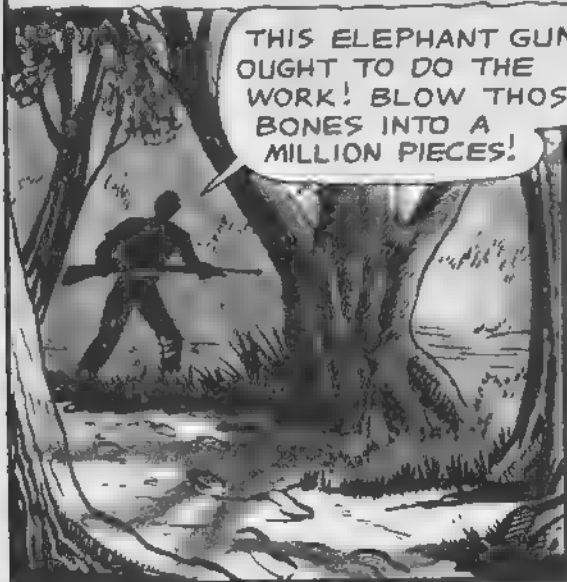
THERE'S ITS
FOOTPRINT!
NOW IF I CAN
FIND IT IN TIME,
BEFORE IT
KILLS KATY

JOE RUSHES HEEDLESSLY INTO THE DARK DEPTHS OF THE JUNGLE...

AND THEN...

THIS ELEPHANT GUN OUGHT TO DO THE WORK! BLOW THOSE BONES INTO A MILLION PIECES!

THERE SHE IS! BUT IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S D-DEAD!



SHE'S ALIVE! KATY! KATY, BABY!

OHH—OOO—



OUT OF THE BRUSH BEHIND JOE...

ARRRRRGGGGRRR— THE BONES! IT WAS A TRAP TO MAKE ME DROP THE GUN! THAT MONSTER CAN T-THINK!



ARRRRRGGGGRRR—

THANK G-GOODNESS KATY FAINTED AGAIN! SHE WON'T FEEL IT!



NO USE TRYING TO F-FIGHT IT! I GUESS THIS IS IT!



BUT THE BONY DEATH
DOES NOT STRIKE...

ARRRRR G G P P.
A PYTHON!
IT'S GOT
THE BONES!



JOE WATCHES A STRANGE
AND TERRIBLE STRUGGLE..

USING ITS
OWN BONES
TO FIGHT
THE
S-SNAKE!



AS ITS
BONES
CRACK AND
FLY APART
THE
CREATURE
ROARS A
LAST
DEFIANCE..

ARGRRRRRGG-

THE SNAKE
WON! SMASHED
THE BRUTE
INTO BITS!



AS
THOUGH
SATISFIED
WITH ITS
DEADLY
WORK,
THE
PYTHON
DOES
NOT
ATTACK
THE
TWO
HUMANS...

OH, JOE! H-HOW
HORRIBLE! I
HOPED I WAS
ONLY DREAMING!

IT WAS NO
DREAM, BABY!
BUT IT'S
OVER. WE'RE
SAFE!

I'M GOING TO BURY THAT THING
AGAIN! EACH BONE IN A
SEPARATE GRAVE, MILES APART!
I DON'T KNOW
ITS SECRET—
AND NEITHER
WILL ANYBODY
ELSE, EVER!



LONG BEFORE THE ROMANS CAME TO BRITON, THE SACRED STONES LURKED THERE, CROUCHING IN THE DARK WOODS LIKE GREAT BEASTS OF PREY! THE CRUEL MEN WHO HAD TENDED THEM WERE CALLED DRUIDS, HIGH PRIESTS OF HATE AND HORROR AND THEIR JOY WAS TO WRING A STILL BEATING HEART FROM THE LIVING FLESH OF THEIR SCREAMING VICTIMS. WHEN CAESAR INVADED BRITON, HE BANISHED THE DRUIDS — BUT NOT EVEN CAESAR COULD BANISH THEIR GHOSTS, NOR ERASE THE DREADFUL SAGA OF THE BLOODY STONE...

DRUID'S Castle



PELHAM MANOR LAY WASHED IN THE GHOSTLY LIGHT OF A HALF MOON THAT WAS AS SHARP AS THE SICKLES USED BY THE OLD DRUIDS THEMSELVES! NEAR THE HOUSE STOOD THE ANCIENT DRUID'S CASTLE...

ALF BARNES, A LABORER, HAD JUST ONE TOO MANY AT THE LOCAL PUB...

OH I'VE GOT A SIX-PENCE, A JOLLY, JOLLY SIX-PENCE! YIPEEE! I FEEL GOOD!



SUDDENLY ALF REALIZES WHERE HE IS

TOO LATE.

HUH! HOW DID I GET HERE IN DRUID'S CASTLE? THEY TELL QUEER YARNS ABOUT THIS PLACE — SAY THE OLD DRUID PRIESTS COME BACK SOMETIMES! I—I BETTER GET ALONG!

GHOSTS' YIIIIIIIIII! D-DON'T HURT ME—I DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM! JUST LET ME GO!

HE INVADES THE SACRED PLACE

HE DIES

SEIZE HIM

QUICKLY, TAKE HIM TO THE BLOOD STONE! HE MUST PAY THE PRICE FOR DEFILING THE SACRED STONES WITH HIS FOUL PRESENCE!

GOOD! IT HAS BEEN LONG SINCE WE SACRIFICED A MORTAL TO OUR ANCIENT GODS

BIND HIM TO THE STONE AND BRING ME THE GOLDEN SICKLE OF DEATH!

QUET FOOL THIS S AN HONOR WE DO YOU

T-THE BLOOD STONE? YAAAAAAA!

NO—EEEEEE—

A MOMENT LATER A GOLDEN SICKLE GLEAMS IN THE MOONLIGHT AND THE DOOMED MAN'S SHRIEKS RING THROUGH THE GLADE OF TERROR...

DIE, MORTAL! AS ALL WILL DIE WHO DEFY THE POWER OF THE DRUIDS!

HEED YOUR PREST GODS OF OLD BRITON! WITH THIS BLOODY HEART WE PROPITIATE YOU, AND BEG YOU SHOW US FAVOR! WE ARE ONLY GHOSTS NOW, BUT YOU CAN GIVE US EARTHLY FORM AGAIN IF YOU WILL!

AAAAAAEEEE—

THE NEXT DAY, LADY SEELEY, MISTRESS OF PELHAM MANOR, HAS AN EARLY CALLER...



COME IN, MAYOR TREVOR! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE SO EARLY?

THE MAYOR OF THE VILLAGE, MAM!

I MUST SEE YOU, LADY SEELEY! IT IS MOST URGENT!

NO DOUBT YOU HAVE HEARD OF THE TRAGEDY IN THE GROVE, LADY SEELEY? THE PLACE KNOWN AS DRUID'S CASTLE! A POOR FELLOW NAMED ALF BARNES WAS FOUND HORRIBLY MURDERED!

I KNOW, AND I AM TERRIBLY SORRY, BUT WHAT CAN I DO?

FRANKLY, LADY SEELEY, THE VILLAGERS THINK IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY, SINCE THE STONES ARE ON YOUR PROPERTY! THIS IS NOT THE FIRST MURDER, YOU KNOW — AND FOLKS THINK THE GLADE IS HAUNTED!

LATER... OH, DEAR, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I CAN DO, YET I MUST DO SOMETHING! I SUPPOSE THAT TALK ABOUT THE GROVE BEING HAUNTED IS NONSENSE — BUT I MIGHT CALL CHRIS FENN AND ASK HIS ADVICE!

A CALL IS PUT THROUGH TO CHRISTOPHER FENN IN LONDON...

CHRIS, DARLING! YOU SIMPLY MUST HELP ME OUT! AREN'T YOU A PSYCHIC EXPERT OR SOMETHING? GOOD — I THOUGHT SO! WELL, THERE'S BEEN A MURDER IN DRUID'S CASTLE, AND...



WHILE IN LONDON, CHRISTOPHER FENN LISTENS WITH CLOSE ATTENTION...

DRUID GHOSTS, EH? YOU MUSTN'T SCOFF AT THE VILLAGERS, DEBRA! IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE — THERE ARE GHOSTS YOU KNOW! I'LL COME RIGHT DOWN AND BRING OLD DRUM WITH ME!

THAT SAME EVENING...

HELLO, HIGGINS! I BELIEVE LADY SEELEY IS EXPECTING ME AND MY CANINE PAL HERE!

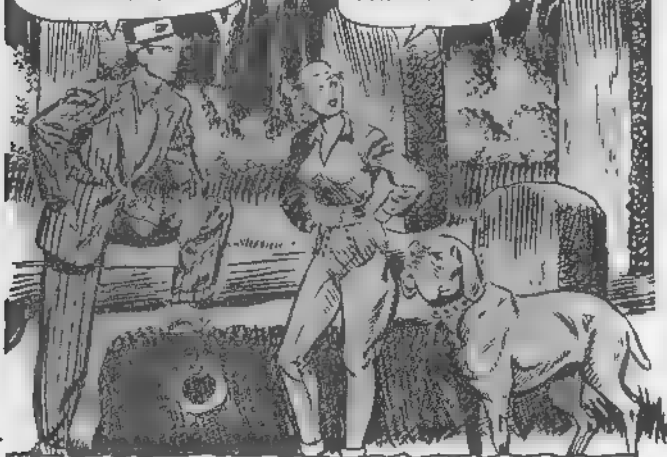
YES, MR. FENN! SHE IS WAITING FOR YOU IN THE STUDY!



THE NEXT MORNING, FENN IS SHOWN ABOUT THE GROUNDS BY LADY SEELEY...

SO THIS IS DRUID'S CASTLE' AND THE MURDERED MAN WAS FOUND ON THIS STONE?

YES, POOR FELLOW! WITH HIS—UGH—HEART CUT OUT! BUT LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, IT GIVES ME THE SHIVERS!



THAT EVENING AFTER LONG THOUGHT, FENN COMES TO A DECISION...

I THINK THAT YOU **DO** HAVE DRUID GHOSTS IN THE GLADE, DEBRA! EVIL, MURDEROUS GHOSTS! SO PERHAPS IT'S JUST AS WELL THAT I BROUGHT ALONG MY LITTLE MACHINE!

BUT WHAT ON EARTH IS IT, CHRIS?



YOU'LL SEE IN JUST A MOMENT NOW! I'LL PRESS THIS BUTTON AND TURN DRUM INTO A **GHOST** DOG!

THERE! SEE HOW HE'S BEGINNING TO DEMATERIALIZE ALREADY! BUT DON'T BE AFRAID— IT'S QUITE PAINLESS! I'VE DONE IT OFTEN MYSELF!

WHY, IT'S INCREDIBLE!



SO YOU'VE GOT AN OLD ROMAN CAMP ON YOUR PROPERTY, AS WELL AS A SACRED SITE OF THE DRUIDS! IT'S NO WONDER YOU'VE GOT GHOSTS, DEBRA! LOOK AT DRUM— HE KNOWS!

THEN YOU R-REALY THINK IT WAS GHOSTS?

ARF— ARF— WOOF—



IT'S A DEMATERIALIZER! MY OWN INVENTION! BY ELECTRONIC IMPULSES I CAN TURN SOLID HUMAN BEINGS INTO GHOSTS!

B-BUT WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO DRUM?

ARR— RUFF—



MOMENTS LATER...

LOOK! YOU CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH DRUM NOW! OF COURSE HE'S ONLY A SYNTHETIC GHOST BUT I THINK HE CAN FOOL THE REAL ONES!

YOU M-MEAN WE'RE GOING TO BECOME GHOSTS, TOO?



THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT FENN DOES MEAN 'AND HALF AN HOUR LATER THREE 'GHOSTS' MAKE THEIR WAY TOWARD DRUID'S CASTLE..

WELL, HERE WE ARE AND NO SIGN OF THE DRUIDS YET! BUT IF THEY APPEAR, OLD DRUM WILL SPOT THEM BEFORE WE DO! DOGS ARE EXTRA SENSITIVE TO SUCH THINGS!

I'M GOING TO BE A LITTLE DISAPPOINTED, CHRIS FENN, IF THERE ARE NO GHOSTS AFTER ALL!

I CAN'T GUARANTEE ANYTHING, DEBRA, BUT AT LEAST WE'LL MEET THE ENEMY ON COMMON GROUND! IF WE FOOL THE DRUIDS INTO THINKING WE'RE REAL GHOSTS, MAYBE I CAN THINK OF A WAY TO DESTROY THEM!

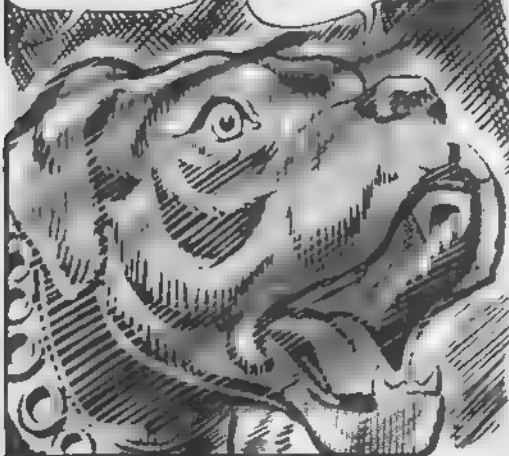
I'M SCARED TO DEATH, CHRIS, BUT I'LL ADMIT IT'S VERY THRILLING!



SUDDENLY...

EASY NOW, DEBRA! DRUM SENSES SOMETHING AROUND US!

RRRRR-
ARF-ARF-
WROW-RUFFF-



THE GHOSTS OF THE DRUIDS STEALTHILY CLOSE IN.

MORE STRANGERS! KILL THEM AS WE DID THE OTHER INTRUDER!

CHRIS! THEY'RE GOING TO ATTACK US!

WHAT DO YOU DO HERE IN OUR SACRED PLACE?

STEADY, DEBRA! AND REMEMBER WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE REAL GHOSTS!



STAND BACK, CHIEF OF THE DRUIDS! WE ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THIS MISTLETOE, YOUR OWN SACRED HOLLY WHICH YOU ARE BOUND TO RESPECT! BESIDES, WE COME IN FRIENDSHIP!

TRUE ENOUGH, BUT...



BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, IN OUR CASTLE? YOU HAVE NO RIGHT HERE, SINCE YOU ARE NOT DRUIDS! ANSWER, AND IF YOUR ANSWER IS NOT SATISFACTORY, YOU WILL BE SLAIN!

I WILL ANSWER YOU!

I H-HOPE CHRIS KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING! THESE CREATURES GIVE ME THE HORRORS!

WE ARE ALSO GHOSTS, THOUGH NEWLY DEAD! SO YOU SEE THAT WE HAVE NO QUARREL WITH YOU! AND SINCE WE CAME HERE BY ACCIDENT, AND ARE NO LONGER HUMAN, THERE WOULD BE NO POINT IN SACRIFICING US!



THERE IS A TENSE MOMENT, AND THEN THE TERROR-STRICKEN SCREAMS OF A GIRL BREAK THE SILENCE...

ANOTHER INTRUDER. WHERE DID YOU FIND HER?

GREAT SCOTT! I DIDN'T COUNT ON THIS!

WE FOUND THIS ONE IN THE WOOD, O, CHIEF!

THAT POOR GIRL IS ONE OF THE SERVANTS AT THE MANOR, CHRIS! WE CAN'T JUST STAND BY AND LET THEM MURDER HER!

NO. BUT IF WE INTERFERE, THEY'RE LIKELY TO MURDER US!

BIND HER WELL! WE WILL TAKE CARE OF THE OTHERS LATER!

SHE IS YOUNG AND PRETTY! HER HEART WILL MAKE A FINE OFFERING TO OUR GODS!

FENN MAKES HIS DECISION...

STOP! I FORBID YOU TO HARM THAT GIRL! I EXTEND THE PROTECTION OF THIS MISTLETOE TO HER!

YOU FORBID

EEEEEEEEEE-

OH, I HOPE THIS WORKS

YOU ACT STRANGELY FOR A GHOST MY FRIEND! WHAT IS THE HUMAN GIRL TO YOU? BUT I WILL MAKE A BARGAIN—YOUR HEART FOR MINE!

UH-OH! GOING TO TAKE SOME FAST THINKING TO GET OUT OF THIS!

A FAIR EXCHANGE

BUT THE GALLANT DRUM SOLVES MATTERS...

THE DOG IS ATTACKING THEM! NOW IS OUR CHANCE!

SLAY THE ANIMAL WHO ATTACKS OUR CHIEF!

ANNN—STOP THE BEAST

RRR—RRRR—GRRRR—

AS DRUM TEARS AT THE THROAT OF THE DRUID, ALL IS CONFUSION, AND FENN SEIZES THE OPPORTUNITY...

COME ON, YOU TWO, RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! HEAD FOR THE OLD ROMAN CAMP! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!

I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING—AND I HOPE I'M RIGHT! ROMAN CAMPS WERE ONCE A SANCTUARY AGAINST THE DRUIDS, WHO WERE AFRAID TO ENTER THEM! MAYBE THESE GHOSTS WILL OBSERVE THE SAME LAW!



T- THEY'RE GAINING ON US!



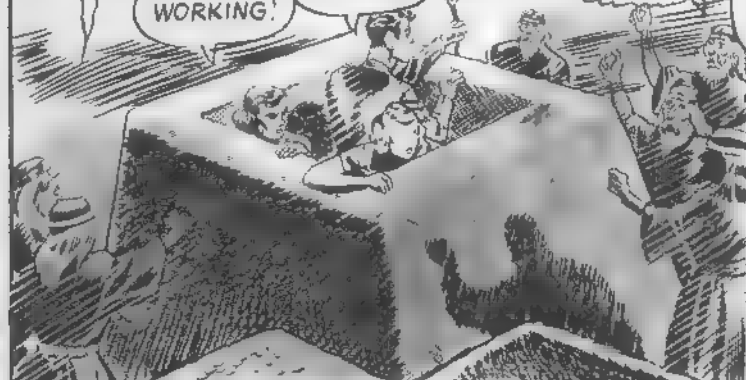
THEY GAIN THE ROMAN CAMP JUST IN TIME...

CHEATED! WE CANNOT HARM THEM NOW!

IT'S WORKING!

STAND BACK, DRUIDS! WE CLAIM THE SANCTUARY OF THIS CAMP! EVEN GHOSTS MUST ABIDE BY THE CUSTOM!

FOILED!



AFTER A TIME, FENN AND LADY SEELEY RESUME THEIR NATURAL FORM, AND AS THE SUN RISES...

NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT NOW! THEY CAN'T DO NO HARM IN DAYLIGHT! BUT I'VE GOT TO FIND DRUM!

IT WAS TERRIBLE, BUT I'M GLAD WE SAVED THAT POOR GIRL!



BUT THEY FIND A SHOCKING THING...

DRUM! BRAVE OLD DOG! HE GAVE UP HIS LIFE FOR US!

SHORTLY AFTERWARD, LADY SEELEY MOVED AWAY AND THE MANOR WAS DESERTED! BUT THE NATIVES TELL STORIES OF A GHOSTLY DOG WHO HAUNTS THE DRUID'S CASTLE AND HOWLS AT THE PALE MOON...

THEY C-CUT OUT HIS HEART IN THEIR RAGE!



BUT THAT IS NOT QUITE THE END OF THE STORY! THE DRUIDS WERE NEVER SEEN AGAIN—AND I KNEW THAT IT IS THE GHOST OF DRUM, A REAL GHOST THIS TIME, WHO KEEP THEM AWAY!

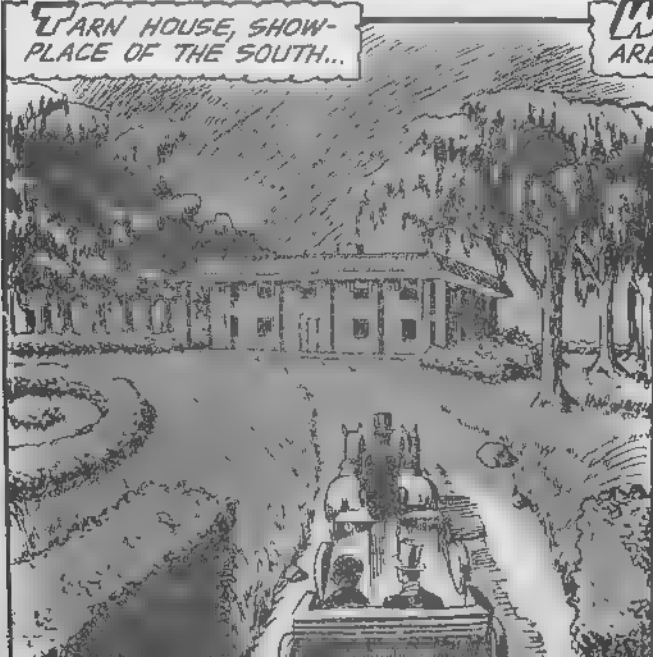


Hands of Terror

IN THE STately HOMES OF THE OLD SOUTH THERE WAS GRACE AND BEAUTY—AND ALSO HORRIBLE THINGS THAT CAME IN THE NIGHT! TARN HOUSE WAS SUCH A PLACE! BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THE MOON GILDED LILY POND, FOREVER WAITING, WERE THE PALE HANDS OF TERROR...



TARN HOUSE, SHOW-PLACE OF THE SOUTH...



WHERE VINCENT COX AND NATALIE SHIPPE ARE VERY MUCH IN LOVE...

YOUR HOUSE IS SO LOVELY, VINCENT!

AND IT'S GOING TO HAVE A LOVELY MISTRESS! I WISH YOU WOULD NAME THE DAY, NATALIE!

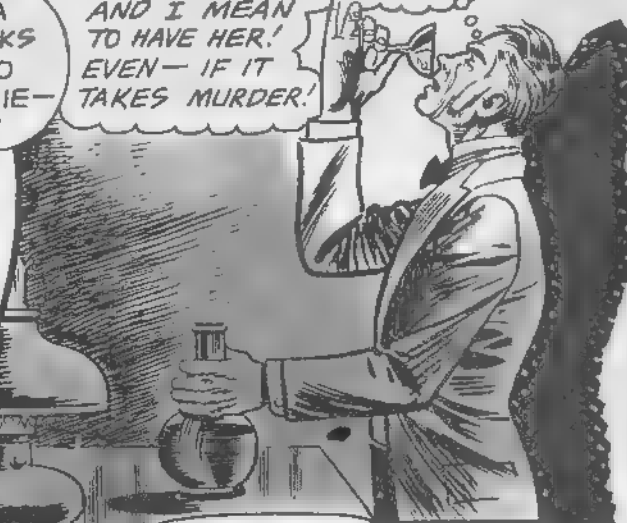


EYES, EVIL AS THOSE OF A SPIDER,
WATCH THEM FROM THE GREAT HOUSE...



MY COUSIN IS A
FOOL! HE THINKS
HE'S GOING TO
MARRY NATALIE—
BUT I KNOW
BETTER!

NO ONE WILL EVER HAVE HER
BUT ME! I'VE WANTED HER
SINCE SHE WAS A CHILD,
AND I MEAN
TO HAVE HER!
EVEN— IF IT
TAKES MURDER!



THAT NIGHT
THERE IS A
BALL...



YOU SAID YOU
HAD A SURPRISE,
NATALIE! WHAT
IS IT?

DON'T BE
IMPATIENT,
DARLING!
YOU'LL
SOON
KNOW!

AND...

I WANT ALL
MY DEAR FRIENDS
TO KNOW—VINCENT
AND I ARE
GETTING MARRIED
NEXT MONTH!

DARLING!

WE
MUST
HAVE A
TOAST
TO THEM!



BUT IN THE BLACK HEART
OF LANCE COX, THERE IS A
TOAST OF ANOTHER KIND...

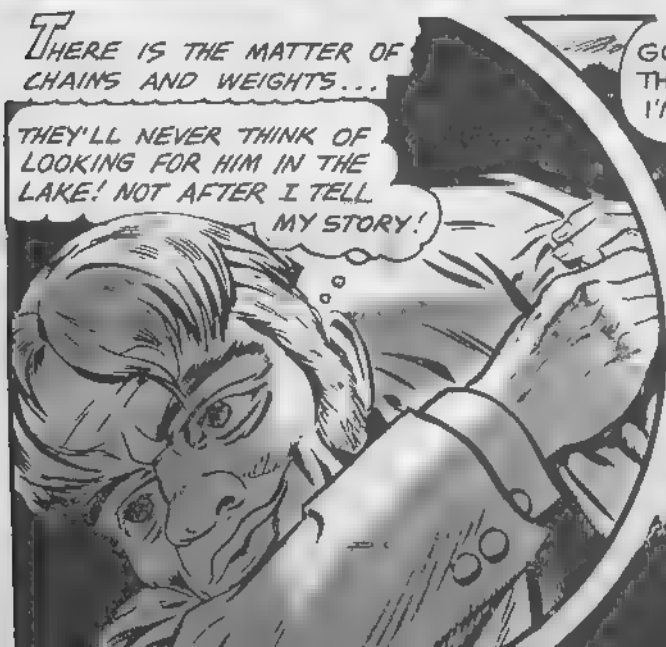
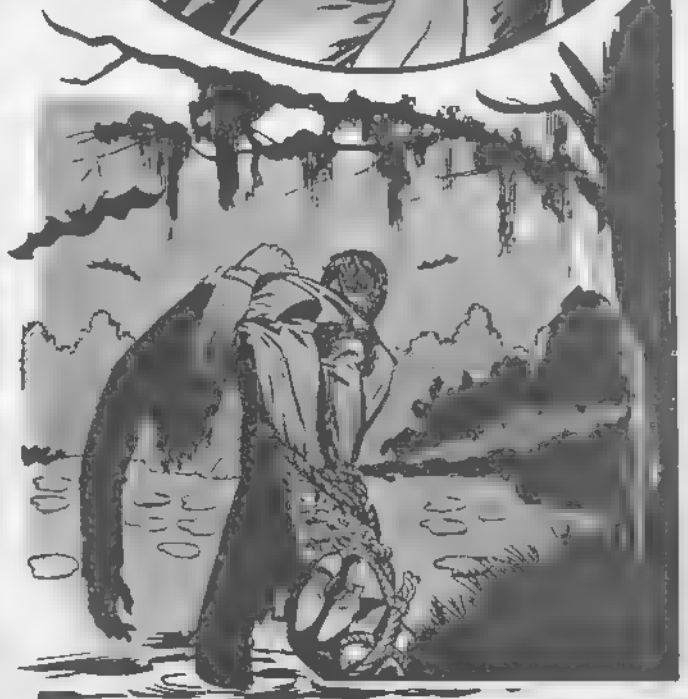


HERE'S TO—
DEATH!

THE FOLLOWING NIGHT...

VINCENT SHOULD BE HERE SOON!
MY NOTE SAID WE—HAH—HAD
SOME VERY IMPORTANT
BUSINESS TO DISCUSS!









WHILE NATALIE,
WEAK WITH
TERROR AND
EXHAUSTION...

C-CAN'T GO ANY FARTHER!
AND HE'S COMING-HE'S
GOING TO KILL ME
TOO!



SUDDENLY...

OHH-THOSE HANDS!
EEEEEEEEEEEEEE-



DON'T BE AFRAID OF ME,
DARLING! DON'T YOU SEE?
IT'S ME, VINCENT!

V-VINCENT!



NATALIE
FAINTS AND...

YES! PERHAPS IT
IS BETTER THIS
THIS WAY!
BEFORE I
STILL HAVE
WORK TO DO!



SLEEP, MY DEAREST!
WHILE I TAKE REVENGE
FOR BOTH OF US!



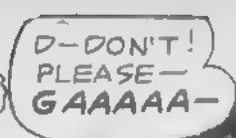
SOON...

AH, HERE HE COMES!
I SHALL SEE HOW
SWEET REVENGE
CAN BE!

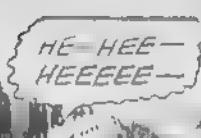


YOU! NO—IT
CAN'T BE! I'M
SEEING THINGS!

YES, COUSIN! YOU
ARE SEEING THE
MAN YOU MURDERED!
HAH—HAH!



D—DON'T!
PLEASE—
GAAAAA—



HE—HEE—
HEEEEEE—



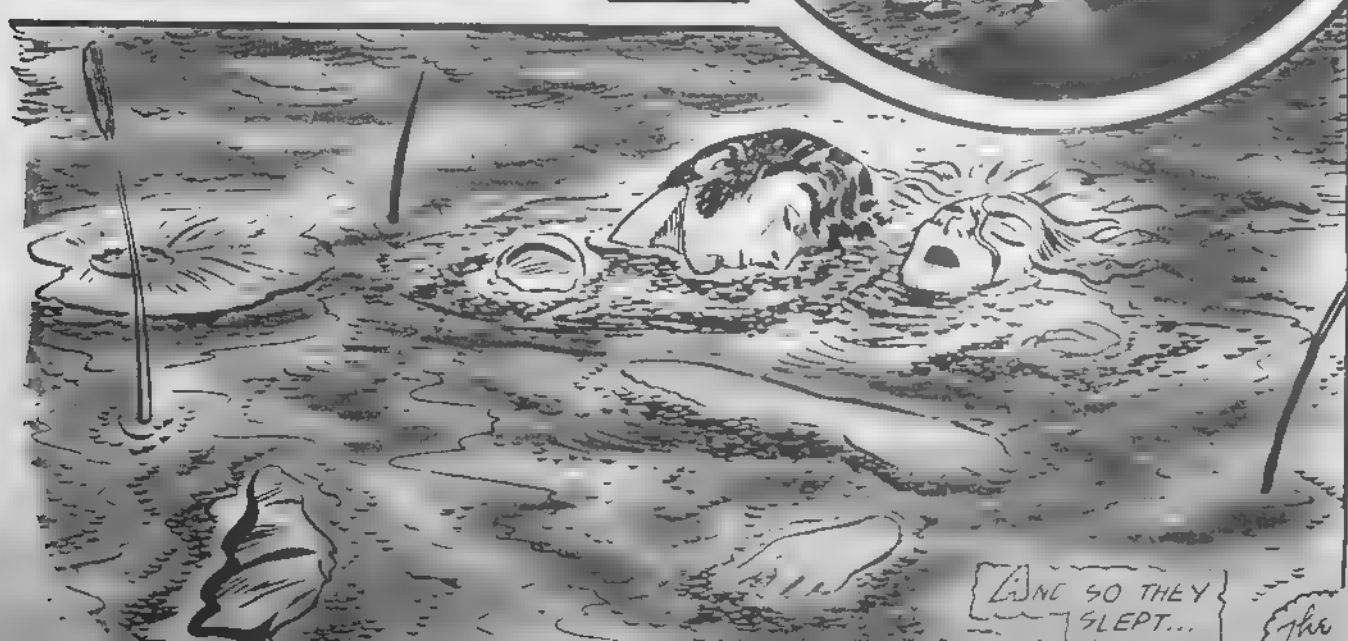
AAAAHHHHHH—

NO ONE WILL HEAR,
COUSIN! YOU PLANNED
IT THAT WAY,
REMEMBER?



WHEN IT
IS OVER...

AND NOW, MY
LOVE, WE WILL
FIND PEACE
TOGETHER!



AND SO THEY
SLEPT...

the

HIS WAS THE MOST HORRIBLE DILEMMA OF ALL TIME! TWO WOMEN LOVED HIM, FOUGHT FOR HIM, SWORE NEVER TO LEAVE HIM! SOME MEN MIGHT HAVE ENVIED HIM—UNTIL THEY KNEW THE WHOLE TERRIBLE TRUTH! BECAUSE ONE OF THE WOMEN WAS DEAD...

FEAR of the WITCH



FARSON, BY A MIRACLE, ESCAPES SERIOUS INJURY! BUT THE GIRL...

DICK! DARLING! I—KNOW—DYING! BUT I'LL COME BACK TO YOU! I PROMISE! I'LL—COME—BACK!

OH, BETH! BETH!



THE TURN IN THE ROAD WAS UNEXPECTEDLY SUDDEN... BETH SHRIEKED OUT A WARNING, BUT NOTHING COULD SAVE THEM NOW... THEY PLUMMETED THROUGH BLACK SPACE AND THE GRINDING BRAKES, THE ROARING ENGINE, THE SQUEALING TIRES TRYING TO BITE INTO SOMETHING... ALL SANG A GHASTLY DEATH-SONG!

SO FARSON
DESCENDS
INTO THE
BLACK
PIT OF
GRIEF...
FILLED
WITH SELF-
ACCUSATION
AND
LONELINESS.

I FEEL SO—EMPTY! I
DON'T WANT TO GO ON
LIVING WITHOUT BETH!
IT WAS MY FAULT! I...

PULL YOURSELF
TOGETHER, DICK!
IT WAS AN
ACCIDENT! AND
TIME WILL DULL
THE PAIN!

AND FOR MONTHS...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND! BETH
SAID SHE WOULD COME BACK
TO ME! BUT I'VE WAITED
FOR MONTHS! EVERY NIGHT,
ALONE, AND THERE'S NO
SIGN! NOTHING!



UNTIL
FINALLY...

MY FRIENDS WERE
RIGHT! TIME HAS HELPED!
I'LL NEVER FORGET BETH,
BUT NOW I'M SURE SHE ISN'T
COMING BACK! IT'S TIME I
BEGAN TO LIVE AGAIN!



UNTIL, IN THE
NATURAL
COURSE OF
THINGS...

H-HELLO!

I SEE YOU
DON'T NEED
ME ANY
LONGER!
HAVE
FUN!

THANKS,
WE WILL!
AND THANKS
AGAIN FOR
INTRODUCING
ME TO THIS
BEAUTIFUL GIRL!
JANET! A NICE
NAME!



LOVE
COMES
AGAIN
AND HE
MARRIES
JANET
PAXTON...

BUSY LITTLE BEAVER,
AREN'T YOU? YOU'VE
BEEN TOSSING OUT
MY BACHELOR
POSSESSIONS
FOR A WEEK
NOW!

HMMM—THEY
NEEDED TOSSING
OUT! AND WHAT
IS THIS?

WHO IS SHE?
YOU NEVER
TOLD ME...

THAT PICTURE? OH,
IT'S SOMEONE I
USED TO KNOW! I—
I DON'T WANT IT
ANY LONGER!



A FEW MINUTES
LATER IT BEGINS...

HERE'S YOUR
HOT MILK, JANET!
JANET! WHAT'S
WRONG?

AAAAAAA-
PAIN—AWFUL!

AAIIIIIIII—

YIIIIIIIIII—
SOMETHING—
HURTING! OOOOO—
HORRIBLE! FEEL
LIKE I—DYING!

EEEEEEEEEE—

BEFORE HIS TERROR-STRICKEN
EYES HE SEES THE CHANGE...

GREAT HEAVENS! BETH! IT'S
Y—YOU! YOU'VE COME BACK!
YOU'VE TAKEN JANET'S
BODY!

N—NOT YET! BUT
SOON! I—HAH—
HAH— TOLD YOU
I'D COME BACK,
DARLING!

AND THERE
IS—BETH...

I—I DON'T BELIEVE
IT YET! HOW COULD
YOU?

IT WAS HARD! TERRIBLY
HARD! I'VE BEEN TRYING
FOR MONTHS! IT'S SO—
(SHUDDER) COLD AND
DAMP OUT THERE!

YOU KNOW I **DETEST**
HOT MILK, SWEETHEART!
I ALWAYS HAD A CUP
OF **TEA** BEFORE BED!
PLEASE?

HUH! OH, YES!
TEA! OF COURSE—
BETH! I—I'LL
GET IT RIGHT
AWAY!

AND AFTERWARD...

GREAT SCOTT! IT'S
REALLY BETH! BUT
WHERE IS JANET, THEN? AND WHAT AM
I GOING TO DO? WHAT CAN I TELL
PEOPLE? WHO WOULD BELIEVE ME
IF I TOLD THE TRUTH?

SO ALL
THAT
LONG
AND
LONELY
NIGHT...

I'LL GO MAD! ALL MY FRIENDS
KNEW BETH—AND JANET! THEY
THINK BETH IS DEAD! AND NOW—
NOW THEY MIGHT EVEN THINK
I'VE **MURDERED** JANET! I'VE
SIMPLY GOT TO KEEP HER OUT
OF SIGHT UNTIL I CAN THINK
OF A WAY...



BUT NEXT MORNING...

GOOD MORNING, DARLING! BE AN ANGEL AND BRING ME SOME HOT MILK!

HOT MILK! BUT—JANET! JANET, DARLING, YOU...



WHO DID YOU EXPECT, SWEET-HEART? IS ANYTHING WRONG? YOU LOOK SO STRANGE!

N—NO! THAT IS, I—NO, EVERYTHING IS FINE! I'LL GET YOUR MILK!



I HAD THE FUNNIEST DREAM, DICK! SORT OF SCARY! SOMEONE WAS TRYING TO **STEAL** MY BODY!

YES, FUNNY! HAH—HAH!

SO THAT'S IT! BETH CAN ONLY APPEAR AT NIGHT! AND JANET DOESN'T KNOW!



AND THAT NIGHT, AGAIN...

OOHHAAAAA— THE PAIN! I— I'M BEING TORN APART!

AAAEEEEEEEE—

T—THEY'RE FIGHTING! BETH AND JANET— F—FIGHTING TO SEE WHO GETS THE BODY! GREAT SCOTT! WHAT CAN I DO?



BUT IN THE DARKNESS, THE SPIRIT OF BETH IS THE STRONGER.

HURRY AND GET DRESSED, DARLING! YOU KNOW I LIKE TO GO DANCING! HURRY, NOW! WE'LL HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME!

Y—YES— BETH!



POOR DEAR! IT **MUST** BE CONFUSING FOR YOU! BUT I'M BACK TO STAY, YOU KNOW! I'LL BE WITH YOU EVERY NIGHT FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES! SHE— THAT CREATURE— CAN ONLY HAVE YOU IN THE DAY TIME!

I CAN'T LIVE LIKE THIS! I'LL GO INSANE! I NEED HELP!

THE NEXT DAY, FARSON GOES TO AN EXPERT IN SUCH MATTERS... HASTILY HE Poured OUT HIS TALE OF TORTURE TO FRIENDLY UNDERSTANDING EARS...

I SEE NO HOPE IN EXORCISING THIS SUCCUMBUS, MR. FARSON! SHE IS VERY STRONG! BUT YOU TELL ME YOU ARE EMPLOYED BY THE WEATHER BUREAU — AND THAT MIGHT BE A PARTIAL SOLUTION!



HUH! SURE, I'M A METEOROLOGIST, BUT WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH IT?

BUT HE TAKES THE ADVICE, AND... SURE, FARSON, WE'VE GOT AN OPENING **THERE!** BUT NOBODY IN HIS RIGHT MIND WANTS **THAT STATION!** WHY...



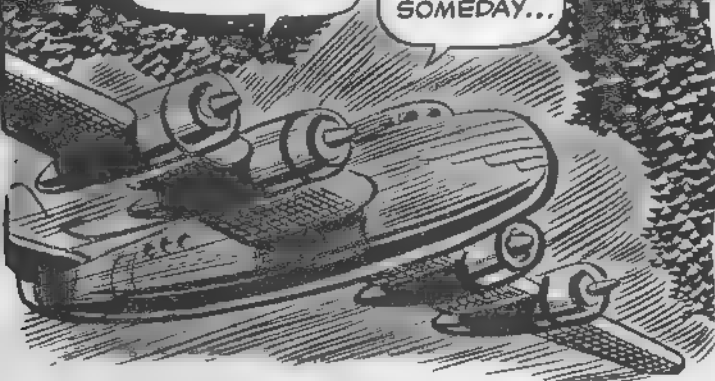
I CAN'T EXPLAIN! BUT PLEASE — PLEASE — TRANSFER ME! IMMEDIATELY!

SO... BUT DARLING, WHY ALL THE RUSH? THERE MUST BE SOMEONE ELSE THEY COULD SEND! SOMEONE WHO ISN'T MARRIED... HAH — THAT'S JUST THE POINT! HURRY, GET ABOARD!



BUT, DARLING, WHY IN THE WORLD DID YOU LET THEM SEND YOU **HERE?**

I CAN'T EXPLAIN NOW! MAYBE SOMEDAY...



I'M GRATEFUL, FARSON, BECAUSE YOU'RE RELIEVING ME! BUT WHY ON EARTH DID YOU ASK FOR A STATION WHERE THE DAYS AND NIGHTS ARE SIX MONTHS LONG?

I HAD A GOOD REASON! ONE I'LL NEVER TELL YOU!



AND AT LAST...

OOOO, IT'S SO COLD! I WANT TO GET INSIDE BEFORE I FREEZE TO DEATH!

RUN ALONG! I'LL SEE YOU LATER!



YOU WOULD NEVER UNDERSTAND WHY I **HAD** TO BE WHERE THE DAYS AND NIGHTS ARE **SIX MONTHS LONG!**



SO WE LEAVE RICHARD FARSON, SURELY THE STRANGEST BIGAMIST OF ALL TIME... A VICTIM OF TWO LOVES, TWO WOMEN... ONE OF THEM DEAD.

The End

THE HAND OF FATE WILL NOT BE DETERRED FROM EXECUTING ITS APPOINTED TASKS... AND HE WHO SHALL GLIMPSE THE FUTURE SHALL BE HELPLESS TO FORESTALL ITS COURSE, FOR NO MORTAL CAN OBSTRUCT DESTINY... NOT EVEN THE

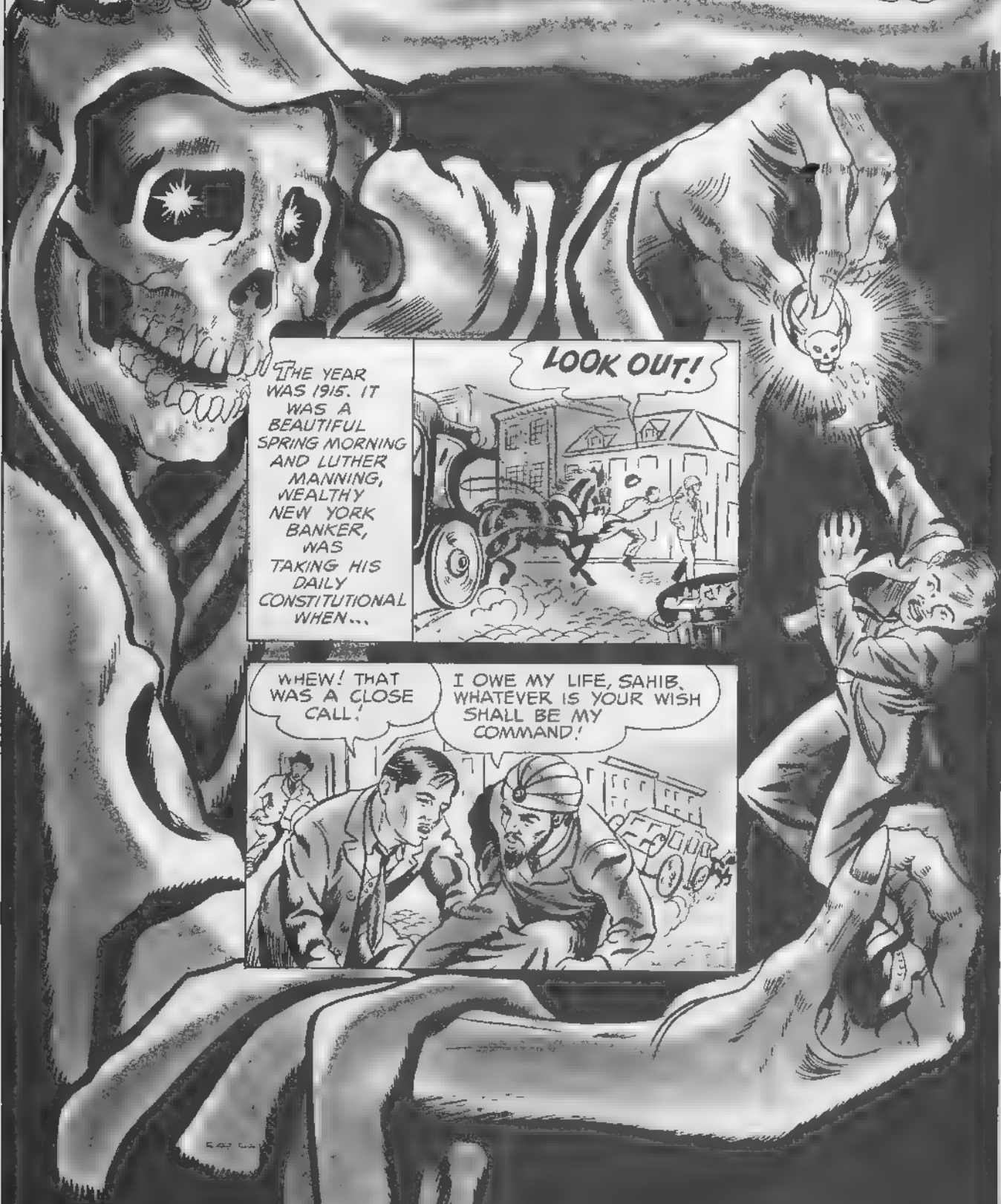
MIRROR of DEATH

THE YEAR WAS 1915. IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL SPRING MORNING AND LUTHER MANNING, WEALTHY NEW YORK BANKER, WAS TAKING HIS DAILY CONSTITUTIONAL WHEN...

LOOK OUT!

WHEW! THAT WAS A CLOSE CALL!

I OWE MY LIFE, SAHIB. WHATEVER IS YOUR WISH SHALL BE MY COMMAND!





I SEEK NO REWARD, MY FRIEND! I DID WHAT ANY MAN WOULD HAVE DONE IN THE SAME SITUATION!

NEVERTHELESS, ALLOW ME TO GIVE YOU THIS RING AS A TOKEN OF MY GRATITUDE!

WEAR IT, MY FRIEND, AND ITS WONDROUS MYSTIC POWER SHALL BESTOWED UPON YOU!

MYSTIC POWER? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



I CAN SAY NO MORE... I THANK YOU AGAIN FOR SAVING MY LIFE, SAHIB! GOOD-BYE!

BUT...

THERE WAS NO TIME FOR LUTHER MANNING TO PUZZLE OVER THE HINDU'S STRANGE WORDS! THE BANK WAS HOLDING A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND HE WAS ALREADY LATE...

GOOD MORNING, LUTHER! WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!

SORRY I'M LATE, GENTLEMEN... I WAS UNAVOIDABLY DETAINED! SHALL WE PROCEED?



THE MEETING GOT UNDER WAY AND THE INCIDENT OF THE MORNING WAS ALL BUT FORGOTTEN... SUDDENLY LUTHER FOUND HIMSELF STARING IN UTTER DISBELIEF AND HORROR AT THE FACE OF THE MAN OPPOSITE HIM!



WHAT'S WRONG, LUTHER? YOU STARE AT ME AS THOUGH I WERE A GHOST!



LUTHER SHUT HIS EYES, TRYING TO SHAKE OFF THE HALLUCINATION, BUT WHEN HE REOPENED THEM, THE APPARITION WAS STILL THERE!

I MUST BE LOSING MY MIND!

EXCUSE ME... GENTLEMEN! I'M NOT FEELING WELL! I'M AFRAID I MUST LEAVE!



ALONE AT HIS HOME LUTHER PONDERED OVER HIS CURIOUS EXPERIENCE...

AM I GOING INSANE? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

THE FOLLOWING DAY, LUTHER RECEIVED HIS ANSWER...



THERE IT GOES, BOBBY! GET IT!

WHEEE! LOOK AT IT FLY, GRANDPA!

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF WHAT HAD OCCURRED WAS TOO MUCH EVEN FOR LUTHER'S IMAGINATION!

IT WAS A COINCIDENCE! I'VE GOT TO GET THIS THING OFF MY MIND... GOT TO STOP THINKING ABOUT IT!

HE WENT TO THE HOME OF HIS DAUGHTER WHERE HE KNEW THAT HIS GRANDSON COULD HELP HIM FORGET THE UN-FORTUNATE INCIDENT...



BOBBY! YOUR FACE! NO... NO!

THE OLDER MAN CHUCKLED WITH DELIGHT AS THE YOUNGSTER RAN TO RETRIEVE THE GLIDER... BUT WHEN THE CHILD TURNED TO HAND IT TO HIM, TERROR CLUTCHED THE HEART OF LUTHER MANNING!

... I WANT HIM LOCKED IN HIS ROOM... NO ONE IS TO SEE HIM... TASTE EVERY BIT OF FOOD YOU GIVE HIM! DON'T ASK ME WHY! JUST DO AS I SAY!

BUT FATHER... THERE MUST BE SOME REASON...



LUTHER RETURNED HOME AFTER MAKING SURE THAT THE BOY WAS SECURELY LOCKED IN HIS ROOM...BUT HIS MIND COULD NOT REST!

NOT BOBBY!
PLEASE, GOD...
NOT BOBBY!



SUDDENLY A HORRIBLE FEAR GRIPPED HIM! FRANTICALLY HE DROVE TO HIS DAUGHTER'S HOME...

FATHER,
WHAT IS
IT? YOU
LOOK
WHITE!

THE BOY...IS
HE SAFE? ARE
YOU SURE HE'S
SAFE?



OF COURSE HE
IS...COME UPSTAIRS!
I'LL SHOW YOU!

I WON'T BE
ABLE TO REST
UNTIL I SEE HIM
WITH MY OWN
EYES!



HE HASN'T BEEN OUT OF
HIS ROOM SINCE... SNIFF...
SNIFF... WHAT IS THAT
STRANGE ODOR?

GAS! OPEN
THE DOOR...
QUICKLY!



THEY BROKE INTO THE GAS-FILLED ROOM AND THREW OPEN THE WINDOW, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE! THE FUMES FROM THE LEAKY GAS LAMP HAD ALREADY SNUFFED OUT THE LIFE OF THE LITTLE BOY! DESTINY HAD BEEN FULFILLED!

HE'S DEAD!
MY BOBBY
IS DEAD!

...AND I KNEW IT
WOULD HAPPEN! I TRIED
TO PREVENT IT AND I
COULDN'T!



IT WAS THEN THAT LUTHER MANNING REALIZED FROM WHENCE CAME THIS POWER TO FORESEE DEATH!

THE RING!
IT'S THE BLASTED RING
THAT'S CAST ITS CURSE
OVER ME! I'LL
DESTROY IT!
I'LL...

BUT LUTHER DID NOT DESTROY THE RING! INSTEAD, HE LOCKED IT IN A STRONG BOX WHERE ITS EVIL POWER COULD NOT BE EVOKED!

THE FOLLOWING DAY IN THE OFFICE OF LUTHER'S PHYSICIAN...

TAKE MY ADVICE,
LUTHER! YOU NEED
A VACATION! GO
ABROAD! FORGET
EVERYTHING!

PERHAPS YOU'RE
RIGHT! MY NERVES
FEEL AS THOUGH
THEY ARE ABOUT
TO SNAP!

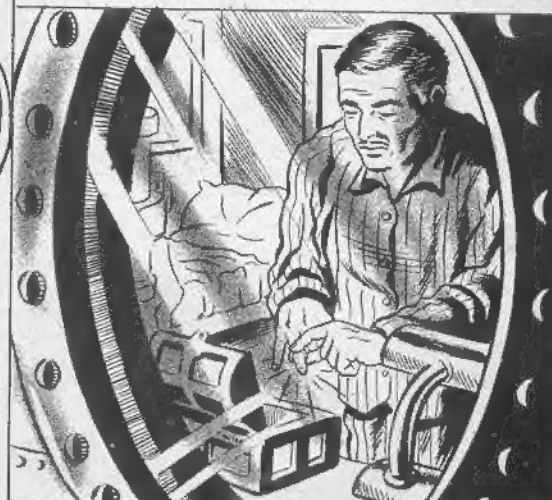


SO
LUTHER
BOOKED
PASSAGE
ON A
SHIP
BOUND
FOR
EUROPE
TO TRY
AND
FORGET
THE
TERRIBLE
ORDEAL
HE HAD
BEEN
THROUGH!

TOMORROW WE PUT INTO
PORT! I'M BEGINNING TO
FEEL LIKE A NEW MAN
ALREADY!



BUT THAT NIGHT SOME STRANGE
POWER LIFTED LUTHER FROM HIS
BED... UNCONSCIOUSLY HIS HANDS
SOUGHT OUT THE STRONG BOX...
REMOVED THE RING... SLIPPED IT
ON HIS FINGER...



AND THE
NEXT
MORNING,
LUTHER
WAS
PREPARING
TO SHAVE,
WHEN...

MY FACE! THE
DEATH'S HEAD!
NO... NO!



GOT TO GET OFF
THIS SHIP... GOT
TO... ESCAPE...





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TALL**

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GLOW in the DARK EYES**

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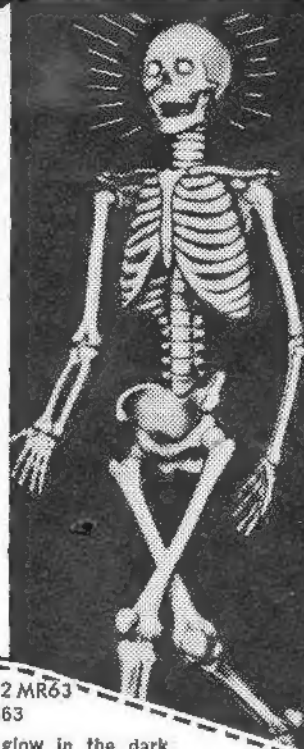
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THEY'RE ALL...
ALL DEATH'S
HEAD...



THE SHIP... IT MUST
BE IN DANGER... MUST
FIND THE CAPTAIN...
TELL HIM...



**SUDDENLY THERE WAS A DEAFENING EXPLOSION
WHICH ROCKED THE VESSEL FROM STEM TO STERN!**

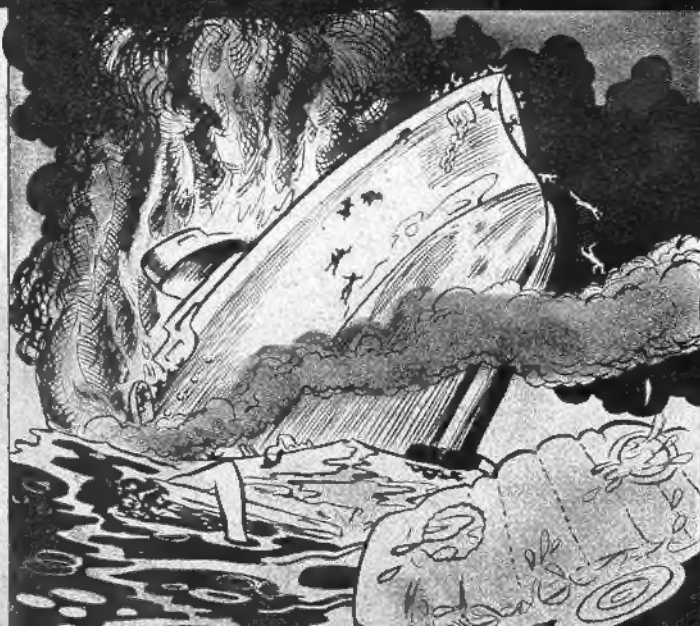
WE'VE
BEEN
TORPEDOED!

SUBMARINE!

MAN THE
LIFEBOATS!



**BUT
IT WAS
TOO
LATE!
IN
21
MINUTES
THE
SHIP
HAD
GONE
TO THE
BOTTOM
OF
THE
SEA,
TAKING
WITH
IT THE
LIVES
OF
EVERY-
ONE
ABOARD...**



EXTRA LUSITANIA SUNK

SHIP TORPEDOED BY
GERMAN SUB, 1154
LIVES LOST.



NAME	AGE	RESIDENCE	RELATIONSHIP
John Doe	35	New York	Mr.
Jane Doe	32	New York	Ms.
...	...	...	...

The End

...AND THE FINAL CHAPTER
OF LUTHER MANNING'S
STRANGE STORY WAS CARRIED
IN EVERY NEWSPAPER IN